

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-10 USSS-00 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 NEA-10 IO-13 FAA-00 CAB-09 RSR-01 /153 W

----- 040847

P R 240845Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7041

INFO AMCONGEN ZAGREB

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E/O 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, 60

SUBJ: MORE ON ATTEMPTED AIRCRAFT HIJACKING IN LJUBLJANA

REF : A) BELGRADE 3744 (8/21/73)

B) BELGRADE 3684

C) BELGRADE 3759

1. OCCASIONALLY UNRELIABLE BELGRADE MASS-CIRCULATION
VECERNJI NOVOSTI REPORTS AUG 23 THAT THREE ARMED MEN
DETAINED AUGUST 20 ON SUSPICION OF AIRCRAFT HIJACKING
(REF A) WERE PLANNING TO HIJACK DC-10 BELONGING TO
AN AMERICAN CHARTER AIRLINE, FLY IT
TO SOUTH AFRICA AND DEMAND ONE MILLION DOLLAR RANSOM. DC-10
REPORTED TO HAVE HAD 80-90 AMERICANS OF YUGOSLAV ORIGIN
ABORAD. PRESS AUG 21 HAD REPORTED PRESENCE AT LJUBLJANA OF DC-10
BELINGING "FRANCE INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES".

2. THIS IS FIRST INDICATION WE HAVE THAT HIJACKERS TARGET
WAS AMERICAN-OWNED AIRCRAFT AND IS IN DIRECT CONTRADICTION
WITH WHAT WE WERE TOLD BY CIVIL AIR AUTHORITIES ON
AUGUST 21.

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3. EMBASSY ATTEMPTS TO CONFIRM OR DENY FOREGOING STORY WITH OFFICIAL YUGOSLAV SOURCES HAVE BEEN UNAVAILING TO DATE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK MORE INFORMATION ON THIS HIJACKING BUT MAY ENCOUNTER DELAYS IN VIEW OF REPORTED STATEMENT TO PRESS SLOVENIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS SECRETARIAT THAT IT DOES NOT WISH TO GIVE FURTHER DETAILS BEYOND THOSE ALREADY ANNOUNCED, AND EXTREME SECURITY SENSITIVITY RECENTLY DISPLAYED BY YUGOSLAVS IN BELGRADE RAILROAD STATION BOMBING (REF B AND C).
JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Remarks:
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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